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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/519,457	12/29/2004	Yasuyuki Suzuki	Q85448	2664
23373	7590	09/20/2006	EXAMINER	
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037			NGUYEN, LONG T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2816	

DATE MAILED: 09/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/519,457	SUZUKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Long Nguyen	2816	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 July 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-12 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,13 and 14 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 29 December 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/29/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Specie A, Figure 3 in the reply filed on 7/27/06 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Note that Applicant indicates that claim 1 is readable in the elected specie A, Figure 3. However, upon further reconsideration, dependent claims 13 and 14 also read on the elected specie A, Figure 3 because these claims 13 and 14 depend on claim 1.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to because Figures 1 and 2 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g).

Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 13 and 14 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 3, "the transistors" should be changed to --transistors-- to avoid lacking antecedent basis.

Claim 1, line 7, "the transistors" should be changed to --transistors-- to avoid lacking antecedent basis.

Claims 13 and 14 are objected to because they include the informalities of claim 1.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 13 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Taiichi (JP 07-273610).

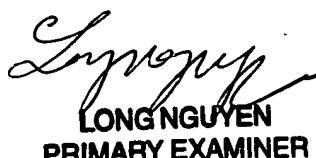
Note that Figure 1 discloses a flip-flop, which includes: a master circuit (R1, R2, X1, X2, X5, X7, XL1, XL2, XL8, XL9, XL5, XS1-XS4, XD1, XD2, XD5, XD6) comprising a first data reading differential pair (X1, X2, X5), a first data-hold differential pair (XL1, XL2, XL5, XL8, XL9) composed of transistors of a size smaller than the transistors constituting the first data reading differential pair (see abstract), and a first current source circuit (X7) connected to the first data reading differential pair and the first data-hold differential pair; and a slave circuit (R3, R4, X3, X4, X6, XL7, XL3, XL4, XL10, XL11, XL6, XS5-XS8, XD3, XD4, XD7, XD8) comprising a second data reading differential pair (X3, X4, X6), a second data-hold differential pair (XL3, XL4, XL10, XL11, XL6) composed of transistors of a size smaller than the transistors constituting the second data reading differential pair (X3, X4, X6, see abstract); and it is seen the in the operation of the flip-flop in Figure 1 that the flip-flop operates in an operating speed range

in which the currents through the first and second data-hold differential pairs are lower than the than the currents through the first and second data reading differential pairs (because of transistors XLn are smaller in size than transistors Xn, see abstract), and the currents through the first and second data-hold differential pairs are equal to or lower than the permissible current level of the transistors that constitute the data-hold differential pairs. Because all structures of the claims are fully met, so the functional limitations of the claims are also fully met in the operation of the flip-flop.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directly to Examiner Long Nguyen whose telephone number is (571) 272-1753. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8:00am to 6:30pm.
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim Callahan, can be reached at (571) 272-1740. The fax number for this group is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



LONG NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER